In the Claims

Claims 1 and 26 are currently amended.

Claims 10-25, 27-30, and 39-64 are canceled.

Claims 1-10, 26, and 31-38 remain in the application for consideration and are listed as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for use in encoding video data, the method comprising:

within a sequence of video pictures, selecting a current video picture to be encoded;

dividing the current video picture into portions and selecting a current portion to be encoded;

establishing at least a first reference picture for said current portion; and selectively assigning at least one motion vector predictor (MVP) to said current portion, said MVP including data associated with at least said first reference picture and with at least one other encoded portion of said current video picture, and wherein said MVP is not based on a temporal interpolation of motion vectors used for encoding said first reference picture, and wherein selectively assigning said MVP to said current portion further includes:

encoding said current portion using a Copy Mode scheme based on a spatial prediction technique to produce a Copy Mode coded current portion;

encoding said current portion using a Direct Mode scheme based on a temporal prediction technique to produce a Direct Mode coded current portion; and

selecting between said Copy Mode coded current portion and said Direct Mode coded current portion, wherein selecting between said Copy Mode coded current portion and said Direct Mode coded current portion is accomplished using a Rate Distortion Optimization (RDO) technique, wherein said RDO technique uses a Lagrangian parameter λ based on a quantizer (QP) associated with said current portion, and wherein said RDO technique employs an adaptive weighting function, wherein said adaptive weighting function includes:

$$f(QP) = \max\left(2, \min(4, \frac{QP}{6})\right).$$

2. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:

establishing at least a second reference picture for said current portion; and

wherein said MVP further includes data associated with said second reference picture, and said MVP is not based on a temporal interpolation of motion vectors used for encoding said second reference picture.

3. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said first reference picture either temporally precedes or temporally follows said current video picture in said sequence of video pictures.

4. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein said second reference picture either temporally precedes or temporally follows said current video picture in said sequence of video pictures.

5. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein said first and second reference picture both either temporally precede or temporally follow said current video picture in said sequence of video pictures.

6. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein said first reference picture either temporally precedes or temporally follows said second reference picture in said sequence of video pictures.

7. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein said second reference picture either temporally precedes or temporally follows said first reference picture in said sequence of video pictures.

8. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said sequence of video pictures includes interlaced pictures.

9. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said at least one other encoded portion of said current video picture is a spatially neighboring portion within said current video picture.

10 - 25. (Canceled).

26. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim ~~26~~ 1, wherein selecting between said Copy Mode coded current portion and said Direct Mode coded current portion is accomplished at least in-part based on user input.

27. – 30. (Canceled).

31. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said current portion is selected from a group of different types of portions comprising a picture, a block, a macroblock, a subblock, a sub-partition, a slice.

32. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said current picture is encoded as at least one picture selected from a group of pictures comprising a B picture and a P picture.

33. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein said first and second reference pictures are each encoded as P pictures or B pictures.

34. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein a syntax associated with said current picture identifies that said current picture was encoded using said MVP.

35. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein a syntax associated with said current picture includes at least one parameter selected from a group of parameters comprising a copy_mv_spatial parameter, a direct_mv_spatial parameter, and a direct_mv_scale_div_diff.

36. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 34, wherein said syntax includes a header selected from among a group of headers comprising a frame header, a macroblock header and a slice header.

37. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 36, wherein said syntax includes at least one flag indicative of a type of direct mode encoding used.

38. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 36, wherein said type of direct mode encoding used is selected from a group comprising temporal direct mode and spatial direct mode.

39. – 64. (Canceled).